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# **News Release**

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## **Shakopee man pleads guilty to firearms possession**

A 24-year-old Shakopee man pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court in Minneapolis on a charge of firearms possession.

Christopher Loren Zink pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. He entered his plea Sept. 10 before United States District Court Judge Ann Montgomery. Zink was indicted on Aug. 5.

According to Zink's plea agreement, he admitted that from April 8 through May 6 he knowingly possessed a short-barreled Winchester 12-gauge shotgun.

Zink had been previously convicted of felony crimes in three Minnesota counties between 2002 and 2007, including assault in Dakota County (2002), theft of a motor vehicle in Hennepin County (2003) and burglary in Scott County (2007).

According to a U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) affidavit, the Shakopee Police Department was notified on April 15 that Zink attempted to pawn the shotgun at a pawn shop. The shop refused to accept the weapon because the barrel was shorter than the legal requirement.

During the execution of a search warrant at Zink's residence on May 6, police located a short-barreled shotgun and approximately 20 12-gauge shotgun shells. Authorities determined that the weapon was not manufactured in Minnesota.

Zink faces a potential maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Judge Montgomery will determine Zink's sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the Shakopee Police Department and the ATF, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a comprehensive, strategic approach to reducing gun crime in America that was launched in 2001. It networks existing local programs that target gun crime and provides them with additional tools in the effort to make our streets and

communities a much more safe place.